



Germans Drive Allied Forces Back, Capturing Three Towns in France; Austrian Kaiser's Death Imminent

JAPANESE BOMBARD TSING-TAU GERMANS, SAYS TOKIO REPORT

British, French and Russian Warships Are Also Taking Part in Blockade of Fortified Seaport.

AUSTRIA QUILTS; STRIPS CRUISER

Thus Averts Danger of War in the Far East—Allies to Attack by Land as Well as Sea—Kaiser Ignored Ultimatum.

Tokio, Aug. 24.—The "Yamato" in an extra edition to-day says that the Japanese fleet has begun the bombardment of Tsing-tau. This message was passed by the censor of the Navy Department.

Communication between Japan and China has been severed for twenty-four hours. Except for the very meagre news that has reached here from New York the entire country is kept in the dark regarding the progress of the war in Europe.

It is believed that the cable between Shanghai and Nagasaki has been cut. The officers of the army and navy are absolutely sphinxlike regarding the progress of events in the China Sea. Everything is quiet here, the attitude of the public being almost indifferent.

Peking, Aug. 24.—The blockade of Tsing-tau, the fortified seaport of Kiaochow, has begun. British, French and Russian vessels of war are taking part in the movement.

Up to the present time only British regiments have received orders to co-operate with the Japanese in the operations against Kiaochow on the land side. The French, however, are expected orders to assist the British. There probably will not be more than two or three regiments from each nation.

No reliable information has reached here yet as to any Japanese landing on the Kiaochow territory.

Washington, Aug. 24.—Danger of war between Japan and Austria was removed to-day through the agreement of Austria to dismantle her cruiser, the Kaiserin Elisabeth, now at Tsing-tau.

The Austrian Ambassador had been preparing to leave Tokio when the Japanese government indicated its approval of a suggestion for dismantling the cruiser. Austria accepted the proposal and instructed the officers to intern it at Shanghai. The Austrian Ambassador then let it be known that he saw no occasion to leave Japan.

Tsing-tau, China, Aug. 24.—The cipher message from Emperor William addressed to the Tsing-tau garrison, in which they were called upon to defend the position to the uttermost, was read aloud at rollcall last Friday evening. It was received stoically.

The Germans have dynamited the rail structures here which might be of any assistance to an attacking fleet in giving them sighting points. They have also destroyed the railroad bridge at the boundary of their leased territory, and have razed the Chinese villages within the territory. The inhabitants of these villages have been partly compensated.

[By Cable to The Tribune.]

London, Aug. 24.—The Japanese Charge d'Affaires in Berlin is due at The Hague to-night, and will come to London immediately. The American Ambassador in Berlin will take charge of Japanese affairs and of the protection of Japanese subjects remaining in Germany, of whom there are possibly a score.

It appears that Germany did not deign to give any response whatsoever to the Japanese ultimatum. Newspaper reports state that the Minister for Foreign Affairs told the Japanese Charge that Germany had no answer, but advice received at the embassy indicate that Germany did not even go that far, saying nothing, but merely permitting the ultimatum to lapse. The Kaiser had evidently simply laid aside the ultimatum for future reference.

It is insisted here that Japan fully intends to meet her pledges and will surely return Kiaochow to China. No one believes Japan will encounter much difficulty unless the German garrison determines upon fighting until all are dead. It is not believed, however, that the occupation of Kiaochow will be early. The press, which gives comparatively little attention to this angle of the war, expresses the hope that the Japanese action will arouse no animosity in America.

Berlin, Aug. 24 (via London).—The Japanese Charge d'Affaires, who was handed his passports by the German government yesterday, left Berlin to-day. His departure was accompanied by no untoward incident. He is proceeding to the Dutch frontier.

The Japanese representative turned his embassy and its archives over to the protection of the American Ambassador, James W. Gerard.

Seoul, Corea, Aug. 24.—News of the declaration of war by Japan upon Germany was received here quietly. General Terauchi, the Japanese Governor General, conveyed the news to the German Consul at Seoul and placed a special car at his disposal for his trip to the coast. There has been no excitement in Corea.

The Commercial Cable Company announced yesterday that cable communication between Shanghai and Tsing-tau and Chefoo and Tsing-tau had been interrupted. It was assumed that the Japanese had cut the cables.

Aquitania, Bow Damaged, Arrives at Liverpool

London, Aug. 24.—The Cunard liner Aquitania, now in the government service, anchored this evening at the Mersey basin with her bows damaged, according to a Lloyds dispatch from Liverpool.

ZEPPELINS USELESS SO FAR, SAY FRENCH

Paris, Aug. 24.—Zeppelin airships, of which the Germans expected great things, appear as yet to have been inoffensive, according to opinion in the French capital. Of the fifteen Zeppelin units, one is believed to have been disabled by the fire of the Liege forts on August 6 and another was demolished in a shed at Metz by the French aviator Finck. Two others have been seen by Belgian aviators, apparently wrecked by wind squalls, in the forest between Metz and Aix-la-Chapelle. Another has been brought down at Badonviller, near Lunéville.

Of the remainder, two are supposed to be on the Russian frontier and the others at Cologne, Hamburg and Kiel and on the French frontier. A German biplane captured at Cernay has been added to the twenty-two guns and other trophies to be placed at the foot of the Alsace monument.

GERMANS IN NAMUR, IS LONDON REPORT

[By Cable to The Tribune.]
London, Aug. 24.—It is currently reported here to-night that Namur had fallen, but official confirmation of the fact was unobtainable.

CARDINALS WOULD HURRY CONCLAVE

May Begin Next Monday Without American Prelates, Who Are Still Travelling.

Rome, Aug. 24.—No exact date has yet been fixed for the convening of the Conclave which will elect a successor to Pope Pius X, although there seems to be a disposition on the part of many of the cardinals present in Rome to start the proceedings next Monday. If these cardinals should have their way Cardinals Gibbons and O'Connell will not be able to reach here in time for the opening session, and it is doubtful also whether Cardinal Farley, who arrived in Chiasso, Switzerland, to-day, can be present.

Workmen were engaged to-day in the Sistine Chapel erecting the catafalque for the last funeral mass for Pope Pius, which will be celebrated next Sunday. Immediately after the service the chapel will be transformed into a conclave hall.

The fourth congregation of Cardinals met to-day in the consistorial hall, several cardinals from the provinces attending for the first time, including Cardinal Della Chiesa, Archbishop of Bologna, and Cardinal Mercier, Archbishop of Mechlin, Belgium, the latter of whom was greeted cordially by Cardinals Della Volpe, Agliardi, Merry del Val and Vincenzo Vannutelli, who discussed the war situation with him.

GERMANY PLANS TO RETAIN BELGIUM

London, Aug. 24.—The London newspapers to-day quote the German newspaper "Tagliche Rundschau" as declaring that Belgium will bitterly rue the day she dared to oppose her mighty neighbor.

Great Britain, the German newspaper also says, will pay dearly for her interference in this war by seeing the permanent establishment of a German naval base on the coast of Belgium.

The Pan-Germanic organs declare that the portions of Belgium now overrun by the German army will be permanently incorporated in the German Empire.

FRANCE DROPS ONE AMERICAN RECRUIT

Single Rejection Out of More than 100 Volunteers for the War Is Reported.

Paris, Aug. 24.—American recruits for the French army will leave here to-morrow morning for Rouen, where they will be supplied with uniforms and drilled.

Of the one hundred or more Americans who underwent a physical examination preparatory to enlistment only one was rejected. This is said to be a record.

"KAISER OF EUROPE" ON LIEGE'S WALLS

Ostend, Aug. 24.—A man who has just arrived here from Liege says that many houses in that city were burned last week, and that the German soldiers are inscribing on the walls, "Wilhelm II, Kaiser of Europe."

ITALY READY TO CAST LOT WITH ALLIES

Diplomatic Circles Expect Her to Announce Decision Soon.

STRONG PRESSURE BROUGHT TO BEAR

England and France Making Every Effort to Induce Her to Act.

FEARS RESULT OF GERMANS' SUCCESS

Rome Believes That Triumph of the Kaiser Would Be Followed by Revenge.

[By Cable to The Tribune.]
London, Aug. 24.—While it is impossible to obtain definite information, it is generally believed that Italy soon will announce her participation in the war on the side of the allies.

The allies are now bringing tremendous pressure to bear on Italy to take an active part, and rumors in diplomatic circles are that Italy has decided to take the fateful step.

Americans and others returning from Italy tell stories of a complete Italian mobilization and demands by the army to get into the fray. At one embassy it was said to-day that it appeared that Italy was biding her time, waiting to see the results of the present fighting. Advice from Italy indicate that the feeling exists there that if the Germans should completely triumph they would take a harsh revenge for Italy leaving the Triple Alliance and adopting an attitude of neutrality.

British newspapers teem with editorials pointing out the advantage accruing to Italy if she joins the allies, even to the extent of discussing what spoils of war in the shape of additional territory or restored provinces Italy might expect.

While there is not the slightest belief here at present that the allies will be unable to handle Germany and Austria, it is well recognized that Italy's assistance would make success more sure and certainly much quicker.

The precise steps being taken to induce Italy to reach a decision are unknown, but there is no doubt that England, France and Russia are all using every conceivable argument, and in authoritative quarters hope is expressed. It is also believed that Germany and Austria are doing likewise, but no one among the allies believes these representations will be effective.

To sum up, there is good reason to believe that Italy will be the next nation to be involved in this great conflagration.

[By Cable to The Tribune.]
Rome, Aug. 24.—The German Ambassador here has been trying to persuade the Italian press to advocate Italy's active intervention in behalf of Germany against Great Britain and France, holding out the bait of Tunisia and Algeria. So far he has completely failed. Not a single newspaper, even those which were Austrophile before the war, has published a single article in favor of his views.

Geneva, Aug. 24.—Italian troops, according to thoroughly reliable information reaching here, are concentrating on the Austrian frontier.

According to reports in Geneva, the Italian army has been raised to 800,000 men.

300 AUSTRIANS DIE IN BAYONET CHARGE

London, Aug. 24.—A Cettigne dispatch says that the Montenegrin troops by a bayonet charge have repulsed a fresh Austrian attack at Rahovo, taking 150 prisoners and killing 300 Austrians.

Milan, Aug. 24.—A dispatch to the "Corriere della Sera" says that a Montenegrin army, 30,000 strong, has achieved a series of notable successes on the border of Herzegovina.

BULGARIA SHOWS FAVOR TO GERMANY

[By Cable to The Tribune.]

Paris, Aug. 24.—A dispatch from Sofia states that the Bulgarian government is sending back to their country all Austro-Hungarian and German reservists under the same category as Bulgarian mobilized troops—namely, at preferential railway rates.

This has caused considerable local comment, since the French and Russian reservists are made to pay full rates and obtain no facilities whatever.

Austrian Kaiser's Death Momentarily Expected

London, Aug. 25.—A Copenhagen dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company, dated August 24, says:

"The condition of Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria, according to telegrams received to-day, is much worse. His death is a question of hours."

GERMANS FLEEING FROM CZAR'S ARMY

In Full Retreat Along the Entire Front in East Prussia, Where the Russians Have Occupied Fifty-Mile Strip of Territory.

[By Cable to The Tribune.]

St. Petersburg, Aug. 24.—The official bulletin, issued at a late hour last night, announcing the occupation by the Russian forces of several points in East Prussia, has entirely confirmed the forecast of the Russian plan of campaign already telegraphed.

All the places taken are on strategic German railways and are points of junction for similar lines running into the interior of Germany. Russia here again, as in the northern theatre of the war, thus secures lines admirably adapted to supply her army as it advances.

The Germans are retreating along the entire front, burning and wasting the country as they go. They are in full retreat beyond the Angerapp River. The railway, river and highway from Gumbinnen meet at Darkehmen, the importance of which therefore is considerable for the advancing Russians. Ten miles to the west of Darkehmen the highroad crosses another short strategic railway.

Russia's two armies now form one army, which is advancing on a front more than seventy miles in extent.

If Napoleon's battlefields of Eylau and Friedland are taken as the centre, this will indicate with sufficient exactness the actual position of the Russian forces as they are advancing to that great pitched battle, success in which event the austere Russian commander in chief, Grand Duke Nicholas Nicholayevich, probably will deign to call a victory—a word hitherto scrupulously avoided.

In the opinion of those who probably know, this decisive battle on the eastern front will develop within three or four days, and it is not preceded by a conflict on the French front it will, at any rate, so nearly coincide with such a battle as to make it impossible for Germany to detach assistance from anywhere.

Paris, Aug. 24.—The following official announcement was made to-day: "The Russians occupy territory fifty miles wide on the German frontier."

"After a great victory the Serbians are now ready to invade Austrian territory to the north of the River Save."

"The Russian line on the German frontier extends from Tilsit to Iwerburg and Arye. The German population is evacuating Willenberg, ninety-one miles southeast of Königsberg, because of the arrival from Poland of Russian forces, which already have penetrated a considerable distance toward Soldau."

London, Aug. 24.—The Central News has a message from Rome that a dispatch received there from St. Petersburg declares that Emperor Nicholas has gone to the headquarters of the Russian army, which has taken the offensive in full strength.

Washington, Aug. 24.—The military attaché of the Russian Embassy has issued the following official statement on the military situation:

"In Eastern Prussia the Russian advance is well developed. On August 19 Lykone and Staluponen were taken."

"In Galicia the Russian army is in possession of Rawa and Sokal and of the right bank of the River Zbroch."

"On the Serbian front a new successful battle led to the capture by the Serbians of twenty field guns, one howitzer, one ambulance and quantities of small arms and numbers of prisoners and horses."

GERMANS SET FIRE TO HELPLESS TOWN

Men and Boys of Belgian Village of Hussigny Marched Away from Families After Village Is Destroyed.

By J. de GRUYTER.

[Special Correspondent of New York Tribune and "London Standard."]

Maestricht, Aug. 23 (delayed).—The Germans have set fire to the Belgian village of Hussigny owing to the shooting of a German patrol by inhabitants on August 13. From a hill some distance from Hussigny the flames could be seen ascending. Half the place was then on fire, the roof of the church had fallen in and only the bare walls were left standing. The tower, however, was still intact and we could hear the bell ringing amidst the crackling of the flames.

The firing of the village was the work of the artillery, and we learned that the village of Godbrenge had been threatened with the same fate. On the road between Differdingen and Hussigny we met a number of fugitives carrying such of their worldly possessions as they had been able to bring away. Women pushed handcarts loaded with children and household goods; others carried baskets filled with food; others again were loaded with furniture and domestic articles, and there were not wanting rogues who seized the opportunity to plunder those unable to defend themselves. It was a heartrending sight. Vise, a little town so often mentioned at the beginning of the war, again has been the scene of devastation.

This morning almost the whole of its population entered Eysden, that is to say, the women and children. The men and boys, to the number of about 500, the Germans had taken with them. The misery was indescribable. Last night we heard a terrible fire from rifles and mitrailleuses and to-day the people told us what had happened. According to the Germans, their troops had again been fired upon by Belgian civilians and they

ALLIES THROWN BACK; ATTACK ON GERMAN POSITIONS FAILURE

French War Office Admits Its Troops and British Have Retired on Their "Covering Positions."

INVADERS TAKE 3 TOWNS IN FRANCE

Luneville, Amance and Dieulouard, Near Alsation Frontier, in Hands of Germans—Reported That City of Nancy Has Fallen.

Paris, Aug. 24, 10:50 P. M.—The French War Office issued the following announcement to-night:

"The French and English, the plan of attack having failed owing to unforeseen difficulties, have retired on the covering positions."

"West of the Meuse the English army on our left was attacked by the Germans, but behaved admirably, holding its ground with traditional steadfastness."

"The French assumed the offensive with two army corps. An African brigade in the front line, carried away by its eagerness, was received by a murderous fire. They did not give an inch, but when counter-attacked by the Prussian Guard they were obliged to retire, only, however, after inflicting enormous losses. The Prussian Guard especially suffered heavily."

"East of the Meuse our troops advanced across an extremely difficult country and made a vigorous attack when they emerged from the woods, but were obliged to fall back after a stiff fight south of the River Semois."

"On order of General Joffre, our troops and the British troops withdrew to the covering positions. Our troops are intact; our cavalry has in no way suffered and our artillery has affirmed its superiority. Our officers and soldiers are in the best of condition, morally and physically."

FRENCH ON THE DEFENSIVE.

"As a result of the orders which have been issued, the aspect of the struggle will change for a few days. The French army will remain for a time on the defensive, but at the moment to be determined upon by the commander in chief it will resume a vigorous offensive."

"We delivered four attacks yesterday from our positions north of Nancy, inflicting very heavy loss on the enemy."

"In regard to the general situation, we have the full use of our railroads and retain command of the seas. Our operations have enabled the Russians to come into action and penetrate the heart of West Prussia."

"It is to be regretted that the offensive operations planned failed to achieve their purpose as a result of difficulties impossible to foresee. It would have shortened the war, but our defences remain intact in the presence of an already weakened enemy. Thus detachments of German cavalry belonging to an unattached division operating on the extreme right have penetrated to Roubaix (six miles north of Lille) and the Tourcoing district, which are defended only by territorial reservists."

PORTION OF ALSACE ABANDONED.

"Every Frenchman will deplore the temporary abandonment of portions of Alsace and Lorraine which we had occupied, and certain parts of the national territory will suffer from events of which they will be the theatre. The ordeal is inevitable, but temporary."

"Our losses are heavy; it would be premature to enumerate them. It would be equally so to enumerate those of the Germans, who suffered so heavily that they were obliged to abandon their counter-attacks and establish themselves in fresh positions in Lorraine."

"Our valiant people will know how to find courage to support this trial with unflinching faith in final success, which is not to be doubted. In telling to the country the whole truth the government and military authorities give it the strongest proof of their absolute confidence in victory, which depends only on our perseverance and tenacity."

TOWNS OCCUPIED BY GERMANS.

To-day's earliest official announcement contained this statement:

"The battle between the greater part of the forces of England and France against the bulk of the German army continues to-day. The mission of the English and the French is virtually to hold the entire German army in Belgium while our Russian allies pursue their successes in the East."

An official announcement made this afternoon says that Luneville, Amance, and Dieulouard, in the Department of Meurthe and Moselle, have been occupied by the Germans. The French front otherwise has not been modified. The communication follows:

"The general engagement continues to-day with desperation. Already both sides have suffered serious losses."

"Our armies had resolutely taken the offensive between the Moselle and Mons, in Belgium. A general battle is now being